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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/085,664	02/27/2002	Deepak Murpani	RLL-201US	8677

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EXAMINER

CRIARES, THEODORE J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1617

DATE MAILED: 09/26/2003

9

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/085,664

Applicant(s)

MURPANI ET AL.

Examiner

Theodore J. Criares

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 21-24 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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CLAIMS 1-24 ARE PRESENTED FOR EXAMINATION

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, claims 1-20 in Paper No. 8 is acknowledged.

Claims 21-24 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicants' claims 1-20 generically claim agents required in the formulation without setting forth the amounts of each of the ingredients to be incorporated into the claimed formulations. For example, applicants claim 5 fails to state the amount of COX-2 inhibitor present in the formulation. In claim 7 the applicants claim the **filler** mannitol and in claim 8 this ingredient is claimed as a **binder** without indicating the amount to be used as a filler and the amount which is needed to be a binder. Further, claim 12 claims talc as a **lubricant** and claim 13 claims talc as a **glidant** without the required amounts to indicate when talc is a binder and when it is a lubricant.

Objection

Claim 7 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

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Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Claim 7 depends from claim 9 and is not a limitation on a previous claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Humber et al. (EP 0 748 628 A2).

Humber et al. (Hunter) teaches at the abstract and page 3, line 29 to page 4, line 20 the use of a COX-2 inhibitor, etodolac, (claims 1) fillers, diluents, lubricants, disintegrants, suspending or stabilizing agents. The tablet taught therein is to be administered orally i.e., by mouth, with a specific COX-2 inhibitor, etodolac which can be chewable (claims 3-5). Ingredients of the formulations of claims 6-19 are taught at page 4, lines 6-11, to be usable in tablet formulations containing COX-2 inhibitors. Examples 1-9 of Humber also details ingredients within applicants claims 7-19 utilized to form a fast dissolving oral tablet containing a COX-2 inhibitor. (See oage 8, line 65 to page 9, line 10.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Humber et al. (EP 0 748 628 A2).

Humber et al. (Humber) teaches at the abstract and page 3, line 29 to page 4, line 20 the use of a COX-2 inhibitor, etodolac, fillers, diluents, lubricants, disintegrants, suspending or stabilizing agents. The reasons for the reject set forth above are incorporated herein with full force and effect with respect to claims 1-19 since the skilled artisan would have been motivated to incorporate talc, microcrystalline cellulose, magnesium stearate, etc. as taught by Hunter at page 4 lines 6-11.

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Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Humber in view of Plachetka (6,586,458). Hunter et al. teach the ingredients of claim 20 as set forth above. The difference between applicants' claim 20 and Hunter is the ingredient croscarmellose sodium is not taught by Humber. However, the skilled artisan would have been motivated to incorporate this ingredient in the formulation with a COX-2 inhibitor since Plachetka teaches at column 3, lines 25-42 and column 10, lines 54-67 the incorporation of COX-2 inhibitor (etodolac being a NSAID) with croscarmellose sodium to form a rapidly dissolving tablet.

The test of obviousness is "whether the teachings of the prior art, taken as a whole, would have made obvious the claimed invention." In re Gorman, 933 F.2d 982, 18 USPQ 2d 1885, (Fed. Cir. 1991). In view of the above rejection it is deemed that the evidence presented has established a prima facie case of obviousness. is presented.

None of the claims are allowed.

The references cited but not relied upon further illustrate the state of the art.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Theodore J. Criares whose telephone number is 308-4607. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 A.M. to 5:00P.M. Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sreenivasan Padmanabhan can be reached on 305-1877. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)
872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or
proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 308-1235.



Theodore J. Criares
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1617

Tjc
9/24/03